

ENGL 313: Creative Writing Workshop: Poetry
Professor Mary Ann Samyn
Spring 2026, TR 11:30 – 12:45

WE REAL COOL
by Gwendolyn Brooks

THE POOL PLAYERS
SEVEN AT THE GOLDEN SHOVEL

We real cool. We
Left school. We

Lurk late. We
Strike straight. We

Sing sin. We
Thin gin. We

Jazz June. We
Die soon.

I KNOW A MAN
by Robert Creeley

As I sd to my
friend, because I am
always talking,—John, I

sd, which was not his
name, the darkness sur-
rounds us, what

can we do against
it, or else, shall we &
why not, buy a goddamn big car,

drive, he sd, for
christ's sake, look
out where yr going.

AT BURT LAKE
by Tom Andrews

To disappear into the right words
and to be their meanings. . .

October dusk.
Pink scraps of clouds, a plum-colored sky.
The sycamore tree spills a few leaves.
The cold focuses like a lens. . .

Now night falls, its hair
caught in the lake's eye.

Such clarity of things. Already
I've said too much. . .

Lord,
language must happen to you
the way this black pane of water,
chipped and blistered with stars,
happens to me.

**In ENGL 313 this semester, we'll read these
and other exemplary poems as we explore the
craft of poetry.**

**We'll pay special attention to how music
makes meaning, how seemingly non-
narrative aspects of a poem tell a story, how
white space is a vital part of a poem's power,
and how successful poems are very often an
interplay between mystery and clarity.**

**You'll read and write poems that matter and
learn practices to continue deepening your
craft.**

**Questions? Feel free to email me:
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